

REMARKS

An Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter is attached hereto to cover the cost of any excess claims added by this Amendment.

Claims 1-26 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1-15, 17-18 and 21-22 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 23-26 have been added to claim additional features of the claimed invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muta (U.S. Patent No. 6,286,003) in view of Usami (U.S. Patent No. 5,883,611). Claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muta and Usami and further in view of Sadakuni (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,412). Claims 6, 13, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muta and Usami and further in view of Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,987,486).

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention, as recited, for example, in claim 1, is directed to an operation screen creating system for creating an operation screen. The system includes a paste-up information receiving unit for receiving paste-up information to paste on the operation screen, a paste-up information setting unit for setting the position and size of the paste-up information to be pasted on the operation screen, and an operation screen creating unit for creating a new operation screen according to the result of the setting set by the paste-up information setting unit. Specifically, the operation screen is for a control terminal which controls a remote terminal via a communication line.

Conventional operation screen creating systems include many different kinds of screen pages (Application at page 4, lines 6-7). As a result, it takes a lot of time and effort to make these screen pages individually (Application at page 4, lines 9-10).

The claimed invention, on the other hand, includes an operation screen creating system which includes a paste-up information setting unit for setting the position and size of the paste-up information to be pasted on the operation screen (Application at page 10, lines 1-31 ; Figures 2-3). This feature allows the present invention to automatically create operation screens that a customer can easily view regardless of the size of the paste-up information (Application at page 12, lines 12-14).

II. THE PRIOR ART REFERENCES

A. The Muta and Usami References

The Examiner alleges that Muta would have been combined with Usami to form the claimed invention of claims 1, 2, 7-9, 14-16 and 21-22. Applicant submits, however, that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

Muta discloses a method of controlling a graphical user interface (GUI) screen at a server in a remote location. The method allegedly controls the GUI screen without requiring the prior installment of special remote controlling software in a remote controlling machine.

In the Muta method, remote controlling software is described in an HyperText Markup Language(HTML) file that is held by the server, and a remote controlling machine downloads it using a web browser. The downloaded remote controlling software is automatically activated and sends a request for the activation of remotely controlled software that is present in a remotely controlled server. The remote controlling machine then activates an event monitor, an event sender, a drawing command receiver and a drawing command analyzer, which are functions of the remote controlling software (Muta at Abstract).

Usami discloses in an image controller having a video display processor (VDP), a central processing unit (CPU), and a printer section, which are needed to prepare and print an image signal, provided in the same housing. The CPU supplies an image parameter corresponding to a printing state of the printer to the VDP, so that a user can recognize a shortage of printing paper of the printer and a setting defectiveness of the printing paper,

RGB data for one horizontal line is written to an RGB line memory of an RGB buffer section of the VDP, and a print processing is executed based on the RGB data transferred to the work RAM (Usami at Abstract).

However, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, these references are directed to different problems and solutions. Specifically, Muta is directed to remote controlling software, whereas Usami is merely directed to image controller. Therefore, these references are completely unrelated, and no person of ordinary skill in the art would have considered combining these disparate references, absent impermissible hindsight.

Further, Applicant submits that the Examiner can point to no motivation or suggestion in the references to urge the combination as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, the Examiner merely states that it would have been obvious to combine these references because it would “give the remotely controlled controlled apparatus the ability to set both the position and size of the received information”. Thus, to use an analogy, Applicant notes that the Examiner is merely stating that “it would have been obvious to combine reference 1 which teaches feature x, with reference 2 which teaches feature y, because then you would have x + y”. Applicant respectfully submits that such reasoning is clearly insufficient to support the alleged combination.

Moreover, neither Muta, nor Usami, nor any combination thereof, teaches or suggests “*a paste-up information setting unit for setting the position and size of said paste-up information to be pasted on the operation screen*”, as recited, for example, in claim 1, and similarly recited in claim 22.

As noted above, unlike conventional operation screen creating systems which require a lot of time and effort to make these operation screen pages individually, the claimed invention, includes an operation screen creating system which includes a paste-up information setting unit for setting the position and size of the paste-up information to be pasted on the operation screen (Application at page 10, lines 1-31 ; Figures 2-3). This feature allows the present invention to automatically create operation screens that a customer can easily view regardless of the size of the paste-up information (Application at page 12, lines 12-14).

Clearly, this feature is not taught or suggested by either Muta or Usami. Indeed, neither of these references even recognize one of the problems (e.g., the long time needed to create operation screens) which the claimed invention was intended to address.

Indeed, the Examiner concedes that Muta does not teach or suggest this feature, but the Examiner alleges that Usami would have been combined with Muta to form the claimed invention. However, this is clearly incorrect.

Specifically, Usami discloses an image controller. The Examiner relies on Figure 36 to support his allegations. However, Figure 36 clearly does not teach or suggest a paste-up information setting unit for setting the position and size of paste-up information to be pasted on an operation screen.

In fact, Figure 36 merely shows a questionnaire screen. In other words, Figure 36 merely shows a “display screen” and fails to teach or suggest how that display screen was created.

The Examiner has failed to identify any other drawing or passage in Usami to support his position. Indeed, Applicant submits that the Examiner likely cannot identify any such passage or drawing in Usami because Usami is merely directed to an image controller, which is clearly unrelated to an operation screen creating system. Indeed, Usami does not teach or suggest an operation screen creating system, let alone such a system having a paste-up information setting unit for setting the position and size of the paste-up information, as in the claimed invention.

Therefore, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

B. The Sadakuni Reference

The Examiner alleges that Sadakuni would have been combined with a Muta/Usami combination to form the claimed invention of claims 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19. Applicant submits, however, that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

Sadakuni discloses an image forming apparatus with which a user is notified of an auto power off operation or an auto power save operation before the operation is executed. Thus, allegedly, an unexpected power off operation or unexpected switching into a power save mode can be avoided, and no extra labor or time is imposed on the user (Sadakuni at Abstract).

However, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, these references are directed to different problems and solutions. Specifically, Sadakuni is directed to a image forming apparatus which avoids an unexpected power off operation or switching into power save mode, which is completely unrelated to either Muta or Usami. Therefore, these references are completely unrelated, and no person of ordinary skill in the art would have considered combining these disparate references, absent impermissible hindsight.

Further, Applicant submits that the Examiner can point to no motivation or suggestion in the references to urge the combination as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, the Examiner merely states that it would have been obvious to combine these references to obtain a system which can automatically set values for the input information corresponding to a certain position on the operation screen. Again, to use an analogy, Applicant notes that the Examiner is merely stating that “it would have been obvious to combine reference 1 which teaches feature x, with reference 2 which teaches feature y, because then you would have x + y”. Applicant respectfully submits that such reasoning is clearly insufficient to support the alleged combination.

Moreover, neither Sadakuni, Muta, nor Usami, nor any combination thereof, teaches or suggests “*a paste-up information setting unit for setting the position and size of said paste-up information to be pasted on the operation screen*”, as recited, for example, in claim 1. As noted above, this feature allows the present invention to automatically create operation screens that a customer can easily view regardless of the size of the paste-up information (Application at page 12, lines 12-14).

Clearly, this feature is not taught or suggested by either Sadakuni. Indeed, like Muta and Usami, Sadakuni does not even recognize one of the problems (e.g., the long time needed to create operation screens) which the claimed invention was intended to address.

Further, Applicant notes that the Examiner merely relies on Sadakuni as allegedly showing an automatic position setting process. Moreover, Sadakuni is merely directed to a digital copying machine, and is completely unrelated to the operation screen creating system of the claimed invention. Certainly, Sadakuni does not teach or suggest a paste-up information setting unit for setting the position and size of the paste-up information to be pasted on the operation screen, as in the claimed invention.

Therefore, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

C. The Johnson Reference

The Examiner alleges that Johnson would have been combined with a Muta/Usami combination to form the claimed invention of claims 6, 13 and 20. Applicant submits, however, that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed method OR invention.

Johnson discloses a two-way interactive addressable entertainment terminal which includes a processor, keyboard, character generator responsive to the processor, and memory for storage of an algorithm related to the installation of the terminal and to providing a verification indication at the terminal of acknowledged entry of the terminal into an entertainment system. The character generator, responsive to the passage of a predetermined period of time since the application of power to the terminal, causes a number of screens to be displayed on an associated television receiver. The display screens reinforce the algorithm and provide indications of programmed key functions despite label soft keys on the keyboard (Johnson at Abstract).

However, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, these references are directed to different problems and solutions. Specifically, Johnson is merely directed to an interactive television terminal, which is completely unrelated to either Muta or Usami. Therefore, these references are

completely unrelated, and no person of ordinary skill in the art would have considered combining these disparate references, absent impermissible hindsight.

Further, Applicant submits that the Examiner can point to no motivation or suggestion in the references to urge the combination as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, the Examiner merely states that it would have been obvious to combine these references to obtain the ability to create a plurality of operation screens having different designs based on a common setting value, which is clearly insufficient to support the alleged combination.

Moreover, neither Johnson, Muta, nor Usami, nor any combination thereof, teaches or suggests "*a paste-up information setting unit for setting the position and size of said paste-up information to be pasted on the operation screen*", as recited, for example, in claim 1. As noted above, this feature allows the present invention to automatically create operation screens that a customer can easily view regardless of the size of the paste-up information (Application at page 12, lines 12-14).

Clearly, this feature is not taught or suggested by either Johnson. Indeed, like Muta and Usami, Johnson does not even recognize one of the problems (e.g., the long time needed to create operation screens) which the claimed invention was intended to address.

Further, Applicant notes that the Examiner merely relies on Johnson as allegedly showing an ability to obtain the ability to create a plurality of operation screens having different designs based on a common setting value. Nowhere has the Examiner alleged that Johnson teaches or suggest the operation screen creating system having a paste-up information unit, as in the claimed invention.

Moreover, Johnson is merely directed to an interactive television terminal, and is completely unrelated to the operation screen creating system of the claimed invention. Certainly, Johnson does not teach or suggest a paste-up information setting unit for setting the position and size of the paste-up information to be pasted on the operation screen, as in the claimed invention.

Therefore, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

IV. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

The abstract have been amended to address the concerns of the Examiner.

The Examiner objects to Figures 1 as including a character which is not mentioned in the specification. Applicant notes that character 140 is clearly discussed in the specification (e.g., see Application at page 8, lines 27-30).

The Examiner also objects to Figures 2 and 5 as including mislabeled reference characters. Applicant notes that a Submission of Replacement Sheets for Corrected Formal Drawings is submitted herewith, to address the Examiner's concerns.

Applicant further notes that Figure 3 illustrates the operation screen 60. Further, the information pasting regions 240 and operation button images 202 are merely regions or images on the operation screen 60. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that characters 202 and 240 in Figure 3 are labeled appropriately.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-26, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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